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BOOK DEPARTMENT.

REVIEWS.

Die Entstehung der Volkswirtschaft. Six Lectures by Dr. KARL BÜCHER, Ordinary Professor at the University of Leipzig. Tübingen: H. Laupp. 1893.

One misses in this volume continuity and coherence, and this in the work of a skilled economist is an undesirable defect. The book consists of a series of lectures given at divers times and in divers manners, though most of them are recent. Neither has Doctor Bücher taken the pains to hide the lecture appearance of his six chapters, but has printed them just as they were originally delivered. The distraction and annoyance caused to a reader when every now and then he comes across phrases and mannerisms that remind him that what he reads was not meant to be printed, but to be spoken in public, are a standing grievance; and it must be allowed that those who hold decided opinions on the subject of literary purity are justified in giving voice to their complaint. The defects pointed out are the more to be regretted since they were not unavoidable, and since this book contains several essays of real importance. The pieces deal respectively with (1) the origin of political economy; (2) the systems of industry according to their historical development; (3) the division of labor and the formation of social classes; (4) the beginnings of the newspaper press; (5) the social relationship of the population of Frankfort in the Middle Ages, and finally (6) internal migrations of population and the growth of towns, considered historically.

The chapters of greatest value are decidedly the first three. Doctor Bücher's position appears to be midway between the historical school as represented by Roscher and the State Socialistic school as represented by Adolf Wagner and Schäffle, though it is seldom that he clearly betrays his own relationship to the economic and social controversies which have agitated his country for nearly a generation. It is when he deals with the evolution of economic institutions and of economic science that Doctor Bücher is seen at his strongest and best. Thus, in the first chapter he gives us a good review of the development of the family and the State, the rise of towns, and the organization of agriculture, industry, trade and credit, as well as of modes of communication, personal and epistolary. More thorough, however, is his treatment in the following chapter of the development of industry from the life

of the primitive hunter, shepherd and fisher onward. Differing somewhat from some of his predecessors, he proposes the following sequence: (1) Production for Home Use (*Hausfleiss*), in which the members of a family, principally the wife and daughters, weave, spin and sew for domestic consumption the raw materials which the male members produce; (2) Paid Labor (*Lohnarbeit*), where the laborer prepares the material delivered to him in his house or workshop; (3) Handicraft (*Handwerk*), where the laborer possesses both his own tools and materials and works independently, selling his goods when finished; (4) the House Industry, as commonly understood, though Doctor Bücher prefers the term "Commission System" (*Verlagssystem*), where the raw materials are supplied for manufacture, and sometimes also the machinery and tools required; and, finally, (5) the Factory System, where we have to do with production on a large scale, known in Germany as *die grosse Industrie*, and with great aggregations of capital. Doctor Bücher takes a perfectly impartial position, yet he does not omit to notice the effect of this development upon the liberty, independence and material condition of the laborer at various periods. At the same time he objects to the view that any one mode of production can claim to be regarded as the natural and only ideal one, and especially warns his countrymen—and the warning is not unnecessary—against believing that the salvation of the working classes is to be found by either the expansion or the discouragement by artificial means of any of the foregoing methods. He holds, on the contrary, that endeavor should be made to maintain the merits and advantages which every historical system possesses, and to remove their defects and disadvantages. "For," he wisely adds, "this is the comforting result of every serious consideration of history: that no single element of culture which has once been introduced into the life of men can be lost, but rather that each and every one, even when the hour of its predominance has expired, continues in some modest degree to cooperate in realizing the great end in which we all believe, viz., the helping of mankind toward ever-improving forms of existence."

In reading this thoughtful work one may now and then feel that our author tends to become too dogmatic, as, for instance, when he tells us, as though it were the last word upon the subject, that exchange is so far from being a human instinct that antagonism to it is always peculiar to undeveloped peoples. Likewise in his careful investigation into the division of labor and the formation of classes. Doctor Bücher becomes as arbitrary in his objection to Schmoller's theory of the inheritance of personal characteristics as Schmoller himself is on the affirmative side. He considers Schmoller's theory as the proclamation of "a social philosophy of *Beati possidentes*," and adds:

"It calls to the low-born who thinks he has in him the power to rise to a higher position: Abandon all hope; your physical and intellectual constitution, your nerves and muscles, the causal chain of many generations holds you fast to the ground. Your ancestors have for centuries been serfs; your father and grandfather were day laborers; therefore, you are yourself destined for a similar occupation." But is this the fact? Does not Doctor Bücher unconsciously exaggerate here and even miss the very kernel of the theory to which he objects? We fancy that most people who hold that heredity plays an important part in determining the destiny of the race will totally object to such a consequence as illogical and unscientific. What Schmoller and those who think with him would say is simply that, as a matter of fact and experience, people do act more or less in accordance with a certain law, but they do not pretend to say that they should necessarily conform to this law, much less that conformity to it is an obligation. Whatever virtue there may be in heredity, we do not get rid of free will, not to speak of other forces and influences which act powerfully upon conduct and character. To say that Schmoller's theory involves the conception of man as a slave to uncontrollable circumstances is altogether to magnify and distort the significance of a plain fact of observation.

The later chapters of the book are of less value, though they contain many facts and figures which will prove of service to the serious social student. We can warmly commend Doctor Bücher's work though not agreeing with all its conclusions.

WILLIAM HARBUTT DAWSON.

Introduction to the Study of Political Economy. By LUIGI COSSA.
Translated by LOUIS DYER. Pp. x., 587. New York: Macmillan & Co., 1893.

This work is intended as a second and much enlarged edition of the "Guide to the Study of Political Economy" which was translated and published in 1880. It is more than double the size of the older book, and is much more complete in every way. Especially do we note the enlargement in the account that is given of the contemporary economists. The edition of 1880 contained two chapters on that period, whereas the present edition contains eight chapters, one being given to each of the leading countries. The first general division of the work also, upon the definition of Political Economy, its relations to other sciences, its method, importance, etc., has been very greatly enlarged.

There is little, perhaps nothing, new to be said regarding the work. Every one knows the excellence of the introductory matter and the